

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

November 14, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Lest We Forget

Do you know why we recognize Remembrance Day in Canada? Do you have a similar day in your country? This first story is about how Calgarians around the city spent November 11th remembering the fallen Canadian soldiers.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	gather	a) a formal activity to note an important event or occasion
	ceremony	b) feeling modest or lower in status, importance or rank
	cenotaph	c) sad and depressing
	grim	d) to die
	desolate	e) to bring together into one group
	humbling	f) alone and isolated
	to pay the ultimate price	g) an empty tomb or monument which represents the resting place of any dead, unknown soldier

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Padre – Father; a military priest

The recent killing of two servicemen - two Canadian soldiers who were killed in October by Canadian terrorists, which has shocked Canadians

Brings home – a phrase meaning to make something obvious, clear and personal

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. People gathered at the Cenotaph for the only ceremony in the city.
2. The weather made the occasion feel more grim and desolate.
3. Padre Ian Trigg has taken part in this type of gathering before.
4. Padre Ian Trigg felt humbled because of how the two servicemen died.
5. The message that has been brought home to Canadians, according to Triggs, is that soldiers are giving their lives for Canadians.
6. The ultimate price, that some are called to pay, is a lot of money.
7. Trigg probably left that ceremony feeling respectful and appreciative towards the soldiers who have died for his country.
8. Ceremonies were held at three places in total in Calgary, which were the Military Museums, the Jubilee Auditorium and the airport.

Discussion: Why is it important to hold ceremonies, such as the ones on Remembrance Day? Who are the Remembrance Day ceremonies good for? What are some ceremonies that you have in your culture? Are ceremonies important?

News story #2 Sexual Assault Near LRT

Why do you think so many women get assaulted and attacked by men? This second story is about the police looking for the attacker of a woman who was badly hurt after being violently attacked and sexually assaulted last Saturday.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary word. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
witness	Someone who sees, hears, and knows something about a crime or event
violent	Rough, destructive and forceful energy
critical condition	Seriously injured with life-threatening injuries
attack	To hurt someone physically
victim	A person who has been hurt or abused in some way
passer-by	Someone who walks by
suspicious	Strange, unexplained and untrustworthy activity or behaviour
LRT	Light Rail Transit
Crime Stoppers	An organization that depends on the public informing them on strange or suspicious activities so they can catch people who are breaking the law

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Sexual assault – a form of sexual violence, which involves an involuntary act

Sex crimes unit – the department in the police that specializes in sexually related crimes

1. After the accident, the woman was hurt very badly, so she was in _____.
2. Many people take the _____ around the city to get from place to place.
3. Did anyone see the attacker? We need a _____, so we can catch the person who did this.
4. Call _____ if you see anything or anyone that looks strange in your neighbourhood.
5. The man is very _____ towards women. He seems to have anger issues.
6. There is something very _____ about his behavior.
7. The _____ didn't see anything that looked wrong or out of place as he walked by.
8. The lady got hurt in the attack, so that makes her a _____ of an attack.
9. There are too many violent _____ on innocent people; it just isn't right.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen to the audio and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Why are Calgary police looking for witnesses?
2. How badly did the woman get injured from the attack?
3. When and where did the attack happen?
4. Who found the 30-year old woman?
5. What does Staff Sergeant Beverly Voros want?
6. Who can people who saw something strange on that night call?

Discussion Question: What do you think causes random acts of violence? How can women protect themselves in these types of situations? How should violent criminals be handled in the legal system?

News story #3 When Will My Bus Arrive?

Do you take public transit? How long do you usually spend waiting for your bus or train to arrive? This next story is about a new website Calgary Transit has set up, so people will have a better idea of when their bus or train is coming.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the vocabulary with the related words.

Answers are in the appendix.

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	real-time	a) to renew modernize
	automatically	b) at the moment the actual time
	update	c) daily traveler driver or passenger
	do away with	d) immediately certainly
	commuter	e) rewording interpretation
	translation	f) get rid of not have anymore

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Calgary's transit website – the website found on the Internet that gives information, such as schedules about the transit (bus and LRT) system in the city of Calgary

Listening activity: Multiple Choice: Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A new version of Calgary Transit's website is _____.	a) getting put up b) is already up
2. The website will help transit users know _____.	a) the exact bus and train schedules b) where the trains and buses are exactly
3. The website automatically updates its latest information every _____ seconds.	a) 90 b) 19
4. The great thing about this site is that _____.	a) commuters don't have to wonder when their bus is coming now b) commuters can automatically update the site
5. The website translates the information into _____ different languages.	a) 17 b) 70

Activity: Retell this new story in your own words. Then, give your opinion on the story.

Language Focus: Expressing Amounts

Amount – A quantity or measure of something

There are many words in this story that express either a specific number (E.g. 30), or a general amount (e.g. a few) of something. When we want to show that there is more than one of something, we make the noun plural by adding an –s. However, there are other signal words that can help us determine if an amount that is bigger than one is being expressed.

This lesson will introduce you to some of these vocabulary terms, so you may better be able to identify an expression of quantity.

Practice identifying terms of amount:

Each of these statements taken from the stories will have a **blue number** next to it. This number indicates to you how many **words/phrases** in the sentence are related to amounts/quantities. Some of the words in the phrases will be actual numbers, while others will just indicate an amount. See if you can identify the phrases and say how many each phrase is referring to.

Example:

(2) A few thousand people gathered at the Cenotaph in downtown Calgary on Tuesday morning for one of several Remembrance Day ceremonies across the city.

Answer:

(2) **A few thousand** people gathered at the Cenotaph in downtown Calgary on Tuesday morning for **one of several** Remembrance Day ceremonies across the city.

A few thousand= about 3000

One of several (several is more than two, but less than many) so, maybe around one of 4 or 5.

Now you try with these examples from the story: Answers are in the appendix.

1. (1) He describes the recent killings of two servicemen in Quebec and Ontario as humbling.
2. (1) "The ultimate price that some are called to pay."
3. (1) The website automatically updates with the latest information every 90 seconds.
4. (1) Transit's director Doug Morgan says it should do away with a question that often crosses the minds of commuters...
5. (2) Morgan says the re-design of transit's website has been in the works for more than a year and cost about half a million dollars.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	NOVEMBER 14 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of November 14 th .	0:00
Story 1	A few thousand people gathered at the Cenotaph in downtown Calgary on Tuesday morning for one of several Remembrance Day ceremonies across the city. The cold, snowy weather gave a grim, desolate setting for the ceremony. Padre Ian Trigg was taking part in his first Remembrance Day with the Calgary Highlanders. He describes the recent killings of two servicemen in Quebec and Ontario as humbling. He said "I think it certainly brings home to us, as Canadians, the price that can be paid, the ultimate price that some are called to pay." Ceremonies were also held at the Military Museums, the Jubilee Auditorium and the airport.	0:09
Story 2	Calgary police are looking for witnesses in a violent sexual assault that left a 30-year-old woman in critical condition. The attack happened Saturday evening near the Bridgeland LRT on Memorial Drive North East. The victim was discovered in some bushes by a passer-by. Staff Sergeant Beverly Voros is with the sex crimes unit. Voros said, "Maybe they saw someone walking away, running away, (someone) who looked suspicious, maybe (someone) standing on the LRT (platform) said something that sounded wrong at the time." We would love to hear from you. Anyone who was in the area between six and 10 last Saturday night and saw some suspicious activity is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers.	1:00
Story 3	A new version of Calgary Transit's website is now up. It will help transit users know exactly when the next bus or train is coming. The website now includes real-time GPS information from equipment on all buses and C-Trains. The website automatically updates with the latest information every 90 seconds. Transit's director, Doug Morgan, says it should do away with a question that often crosses the minds of commuters, "when will my bus arrive?" The new website also provides translation for 70 different languages. Morgan says the re-design of transit's website has been in the works for more than a year and cost about half a million dollars.	1:56

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
e	gather	a) a formal activity to note an important event or occasion
a	ceremony	b) feeling modest - lower in status, importance or rank
g	cenotaph	c) sad and depressing
c	grim	d) to die
f	desolate	e) to bring together into one group
b	humbling	f) alone and isolated
d	to pay the ultimate price	g) an empty tomb or monument which represents the resting place of any dead, unknown soldier

Listening:

1. F People gathered at the Cenotaph for the only ceremony in the city.
2. T The weather made the occasion feel more grim and desolate.
3. F Padre Ian Trigg has taken part in this type of gathering before.
4. T Padre Ian Trigg felt humbled because of how the two servicemen died.
5. T The message that has been brought home to Canadians, according to Triggs, is that soldiers are giving their lives for Canadians.
6. F The ultimate price that some are called to pay is a lot of money.
7. T Trigg probably left that ceremony feeling respectful and appreciative towards the soldiers who have died for his country.
8. F Ceremonies were held at three places in total in Calgary, which were the Military Museums, the Jubilee Auditorium and the airport.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

1. After the accident, the woman was hurt very badly, so she was in **critical condition**.
2. Many people take the **LRT** around the city to get from place to place.
3. Did anyone see the attacker? We need a **witness**, so we can catch the person who did this.
4. Call **Crime Stoppers** if you see anything or anyone that looks strange in your neighbourhood.
5. The man is very **violent** towards women. He seems to have anger issues.
6. There is something very **suspicious** about his behavior.
7. The **passer-by** didn't see anything that looked wrong or out of place as he walked by.
8. The lady got hurt in the attack, so that makes her a **victim** of an attack.
9. There are too many violent **attacks** on innocent people; it just isn't right.

Listening:

1. Why are Calgary police looking for witnesses? **To catch the person who committed a violent sexual assault that left a 30-year-old woman in critical condition.**
2. How badly did the woman get injured from the attack? **Very badly, she is in critical condition**
3. When and where did the attack happen? **Saturday evening near the Bridgeland LRT on Memorial Drive North East.**
4. Who found the 30-year old woman? **The victim was discovered in some bushes by a passer-by.**
5. What does Staff Sergeant Beverly Voros want? **She wants to hear from anyone who may have seen something suspicious on the night of the attack.**
6. Who can people who have seen something strange on that night call? **police or Crime Stoppers**

News story 3**Vocabulary:**

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
b	real-time	a) to renew modernize
d	automatically	b) at the moment the actual time
a	update	c) daily traveler driver or passenger
f	do away with	d) immediately certainly
c	commuter	e) rewording interpretation
e	translation	f) get rid of not have anymore

Listening:

1. A new version of Calgary Transit's website is _____.	a) getting put up b) is already up
2. The website will help transit users know _____.	a) the exact bus and train schedules b) where the trains and buses are exactly
3. The website automatically updates its latest information every _____ seconds.	a) 90 b) 19
4. The great thing about this site is that _____	a) commuters don't have to wonder when their bus is coming now b) commuters can automatically update the site
5. The website translates the information into _____ different languages.	a) 17 b) 70

Language focus:

1. (1) He describes the recent killings **of two** servicemen in Quebec and Ontario as humbling.
(2 people)
2. (1) "The ultimate price that **some** are called to pay."
(not a specific amount, but more than a few)
3. (1) The website automatically updates with the latest information **every 90 seconds**.
(every time 90 seconds is counted, all day, every day, the website updates)
4. (1) Transit's director Doug Morgan says it should do away with a question that **often** crosses the minds of commuters...
(frequently, many times)
5. (2) Morgan says the re-design of transit's website has been in the works for **more than a year** -- and cost about **half a million** dollars.
More than a year – over 365 days, but likely under a year and a half
Half a million dollars = \$500,000